

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DLOS-07 COA-02 CG-00 DOTE-00

AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04

INR-11 IO-14 L-03 NSF-04 NSC-07 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01

SCI-06 SS-20 SP-03 FEAE-00 CIEP-03 CEA-02 FMC-04

INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /191 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/BC:RHECHTMAN:NG

APPROVED BY ARA/BC:JEKARKASHIAN

COAST GUARD:CAPT SA WALLACE (DRAF

) D/LOS:TSCULLY (DRAFT)

S/FW/COA:CDR SHOWENGERDT (SUBS)

----- 093485

O 161516Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, CI

SUBJECT: GROUNDING OF METULA IN STRAITS OF MAGELLAN

REFS: A) SANTIAGO 4835; B) CARACAS 7705; SANTIAGO 4886

1. COAST GUARD HAS OFFERED TO SEND OFFICER TO CHILE TO
OBSERVE METULA SITUATION AND CONSULT AS APPROPRIATE WITH
EMBASSY, GOC AND TOVALOP OFFICIALS.

2. NATURE OF METULA INCIDENT OFFERS OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE
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FIRSTHAND PROBLEMS SURROUNDING VLCC GROUNDING, AS TO CAUSE

AS WELL AS SALVAGE AND CLEANUP OPERATIONS. THIS INFORMATION INVALUABLE FOR PLANNING POLLUTION PREVENTION AND RESPONSIBLE PROGRAMS AS TANKER TRAFFIC NEAR AND INTO U.S. EVOLVES.

3. ADDITIONALLY, PRESENCE OF OFFICER WITH INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF CG CAPABILITIES COULD FACILITATE DISCUSSIONS AMONG INTERESTED PARTIES AS TO WHAT TYPE OF ASSISTANCE U.S. MIGHT PROVIDE IF ASKED BY GOC.

4. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES CG PROPOSAL USEFUL ON ALL COUNTS. IF EMBASSY CONCURS, REQUEST OBTAIN GOC APPROVAL AND ADVISE SOONEST.

5. BACKGROUND PROPOSED CG FOLLOWS:

A) COMMANDER JAMES A. ATKINSON, USCG, ASSISTANT CHIEF, MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION, CG HEADQUARTERS.

B) PRIOR TO ENTERING CG, ATKINSON SERVED AS MERCHANT MARINE OFFICER WITH 12 YEARS IN TANKERS, MOSTLY AS MASTER OR CHIEF MATE. DURING 15 YEARS IN CG ATKINSON HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO POSITIONS IN MARINE INSPECTION AND AT SEA INCLUDING COMMAND OF TWO MAJOR CG CUTTERS.

C) CAN DEPART WASHINGTON SATURDAY TO ARRIVE SANTIAGO SUNDAY, AUGUST 18. WILL ADVISE FLIGHTS WHEN KNOWN. WILL BE TICKETED TO PUNTA ARENAS. REQUEST EMBASSY ARRANGE RESERVATIONS SANTIAGO-PUNTA ARENAS.

D) ATKINSON WOULD FUNCTION AS OBSERVER TO COORDINATE WITH CHILEAN AUTHORITIES, REPRESENTATIVE OF TOVALOP AND SALVAGE MASTER. HE IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS WAYS IN WHICH USCG MIGHT ASSIST AS CIRCUMSTANCES INDICATE.

E) SUPPORT NEEDED: UPON ARRIVAL IN PUNTA ARENAS HE WILL REQUIRE LODGING AND TRANSPORTATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH GOC OFFICIALS, TOVALOP REPRESENTATIVE AND SALVAGE PERSONNEL.

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F) ATKINSON ABLE TO TRANSLATE BETWEEN SPANISH AND ENGLISH AND IS ABLE TO COMMUNICATE ORALLY IN SPANISH, ALTHOUGH LACK OF PRACTICE HAS MADE HIS PRESENT ABILITY SOMEWHAT HALTING.

G) ADVISE CONCURRENCES ASAP. KISSINGER

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30 JUN 2005

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To: SANTIAGO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005